

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An insect cell primary culture medium, comprising lactalbumin hydrolysate, yeastolate, and tryptose phosphate broth as protein extracts, and polyvinylpyrrolidone as a viscosity-supplementing agent and animal serum.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An insect cell primary culture medium according to claim 1, comprising 1000-3000 mg/L of lactalbumin hydrolysate, 1000-3000 mg/L of yeastolate, 1000-3000 mg/L of tryptose phosphate broth, and 200-500 mg/L of polyvinylpyrrolidone and a few % to 30% of animal serum.

Claim 3 (original): An insect cell primary culture medium according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the polyvinylpyrrolidone is polyvinylpyrrolidone K-90.

Claims 4-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (withdrawn- previously presented): A process of preparing an insect culture cell line in a short period of time, which comprises using the insect primary culture medium according to any one of Claims 1 or 2.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (new) A process of preparing an insect culture cell line in a short period of time, which comprises using the insect primary culture medium according to Claim 3.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 2 is found on page 7, lines 22-25 of the specification. Support for claim 13 is found in claim 11 as originally presented. No new matter would be added to this application by entry of this amendment.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 11 and 13 will now be active in this application, with claims 1-3 being under active consideration.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

The present invention is directed to an insect primary culture medium.

During the preparation of animal culture cell lines, an initial stage includes placing target tissue in a cell culture medium, and culturing until cells emerge onto the flask surface. The multiplied cells are then transplanted, being subjected to subculture. While a number of insect cell medium are available, their performance as a culture medium for primary culture has been lacking. More specifically, current primary culture media for insect culture have been slow to produce satisfactory growth. Accordingly, there remains a need for a primary insect culture medium which provides for quicker growth.

The present invention addresses this problem by providing an insect cell primary culture medium comprising lactalbumin hydrolysate, yeastolate, tryptose phosphate broth as protein extracts, polyvinylpyrrolidone as a viscosity-supplementing agent and animal serum. Applicants have discovered that such a medium can be effective for conducting primary culturing of insect cells. Such a medium is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art of record.

The rejection of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over *Inlow et al.* U.S. 5,024,947 is respectfully traversed.

No where in the cited reference is an insect cell primary culture medium comprising lactalbumin hydrolysate, yeastolate, tryptose phosphate broth, polyvinylpyrrolidone and **animal serum** disclosed or suggested.

Inlow et al. describes an insect cell culture medium used for the cultivation and reproduction of insect cells (column 1, lines 6-10). The medium is described as being **serum-free** (column 6, lines 3-5). As such there is no motivation to provide a medium which contains animal serum.

In contrast, the present invention is directed to an insect cell primary culture medium which comprises lactalbumin hydrolysate, yeastolate, tryptose phosphate broth, polyvinylpyrrolidone **and animal serum**. Applicants note that the claims have been amended to recite the presence of animal serum. As the cited reference fails to suggest the presence of animal serum, the claimed invention is simply not disclosed or suggested by this reference.

Moreover, there is no motivation to include animal serum in the medium of *Inlow* as the reference is specifically directed to a serum free medium. Addition of serum would be directly contrary to the express teachings of the reference. There is no motivation to include animal serum in the medium of *Inlow et al.* and therefore the claimed invention would not have been obvious in view of this reference. As such withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that claims 1 and 13 are directed to a process of preparing an insect culture cell line using the insect primary culture medium of elected group 1. Should the examiner determine the elected group to be patentable, the examiner is invited to rejoin claims 11 and 13 directed to the use of the elected group.

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Applicants submit this application is now in condition for allowance and early
notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number
22850



Richard L. Chinn, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 34,305

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)
RLC/bu